

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 8, 15, 21, 30, and 37 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-44 are pending.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul in view of Hall. Paul teaches filtering email messages. Paul's email filter includes multiple inclusion lists specific to each email user (Col 2, lines 13-19). Hall teaches synchronizing records in a shared data environment. Hall's synchronization system and method includes multiple databases stored with each device (paragraph 0029). Neither Paul nor Hall teaches "a single shared index file" where identifying a unique email message includes "storing the message tag in the single shared index file if the message is unique" as amended in claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found without limitation at paragraph 0036 in the specification. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 8 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to include "a single shared index file." As such, claim 8 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 15 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to include "a single shared index file" and "means for storing the message tag in the single shared index file if the message is unique." As such, claim 15 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 21 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to include "a single shared index file." As such, claim 21 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 22-29 depend from claim 21 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 30 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to include "a single shared index file." As such, claim 30 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 31-36 depend from claim 30 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 37 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to include "a single shared index file." As such, claim 37 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 38-44 depend from claim 37 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/26/05

William J. James  
William J. James  
Registration No. 40,661  
V 408-973-2592  
F 408-973-2595

VAN PELT, YI & JAMES LLP  
10050 N. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200  
Cupertino, CA 95014